

State of Alaska
FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Educational Benefits
Component Budget Summary

Component: Educational Benefits

Contribution to Department's Mission

Increase recruitment and retention by offering improved educational benefits to members of the Alaska National Guard and Naval Militia.

Core Services

After becoming a guard member, advancement and promotion within the ranks is heavily dependent on education. Officers must have 90 college semester hours completed prior to commissioning and have obtained a Bachelor's degree within 2 years after commissioning. Failure to complete a degree impacts the officer's promotional opportunities. Enlisted personnel who enlist with less than a 9th grade reading level are very likely not to be promoted to Sergeant/E-5 due to mandatory military schools that require 9th grade level reading skills. These funds assist members of the Alaska National Guard and Naval Militia by paying 100% of tuition and/or fees if they successfully complete classes to obtain post-secondary degrees or training in order to promote careers in the National Guard.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs lists as one of its major goals and strategies for the Alaska Army and Air National Guard as "improved recruitment and retention." The Alaska Army National Guard is critically short of junior officers and senior grade enlisted personnel while the Alaska Air National Guard is behind in personnel strength compared to other like units. States that have 100% tuition assistance are at or near full strength in the officer and enlisted ranks and experience exceptionally high retention rates.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Payment of guard members tuition costs to University of Alaska
- Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees to Guard Members
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FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$378,500	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Personnel:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">0</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel:		Full time	0	Part time	0	Total	0
Personnel:									
Full time	0								
Part time	0								
Total	0								

Key Component Challenges

UA Tuition Scholarship Program:

In FY06, 166 guard members used the University of Alaska Tuition Assistance Waiver Program to obtain their education. By comparison, 376 guard members used this program in FY05. This decrease continues due to the University of Alaska (UA) increased tuition fees. In 2003, 1 undergraduate credit was \$82. In October 2005 that same credit cost \$109. All of the FY06 funds for this program were exhausted before the 2006 summer semester. In addition, the number of guard members applying for educational assistance under this program continues to increase by approximately 10% annually.

State Tuition Assistance Program (Non-UA Schools):

In FY06, 19 guard members utilized this program totaling \$28,500 of the \$28,500 in available funds. Eleven of these applications, totaling an additional \$13,046, were not fully funded due to lack of funds. Rising costs of tuition and increased demand for educational benefits continue to occur. Although no applicant to this program was denied, more

than half of the applicants to this program did not receive full funding, and applications to use this program were decreased from the previous year.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

No changes in results delivered.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

The State Tuition Assistance Program provided \$28,500 to reimburse guard members for classes successfully completed at institutions in Alaska other than the University of Alaska system. Nineteen Guard and Naval Militia members received state reimbursement.

In FY06, the legislature provided \$325,000 to pay for the tuition of Guard members attending classes at the University of Alaska. These funds were fully utilized and made it possible for 166 guard members to attend the University. The availability of tuition waivers also allowed more members in the rural areas to pursue higher education goals.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 26.05.295-298 Educational assistance for enlisted personnel

Contact Information

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**Educational Benefits
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	346.6	378.5	378.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	346.6	378.5	378.5
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	346.6	378.5	378.5
Funding Totals	346.6	378.5	378.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor***All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	378.5	0.0	0.0	378.5
FY2008 Governor	378.5	0.0	0.0	378.5